

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to update the priority information. Further, the specification has been amended to correct inadvertent print-out errors in the Greek symbols and temperature degree symbols on pages 78-90 of the application. The amendments include no new matter.

Original claims 1 to 38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. New claims 39-62 are directed to methods to treat HCV using β-D-2'-fluoronucleosides. Support for these claims can be found on page 13, line 26 to page 14, line 9; on page 17, lines 8-23; and on page 81, line 30 to page 84, line 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present continuation patent application, as amended, is in condition for examination and requests such action. If any issues remain that may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call Sherry M. Knowles, Esq. at 404-572-3541.

If the Examiner determines any additional fee is required associated with this Preliminary Amendment or any other paper attached hereto, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,

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*at express permission*  
*March 8, 2004*  
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